



Raider Review



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U.S. Navy photo by PM 1st Class Michael Larson

Always on watch... Sgt. Nicholas Fate from 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., provides perimeter security in a rural field after a long foot patrol to search for weapon caches near Mushahda, recently.

Tarmiya holds grand opening of youth center

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, Raider Review

The grand opening of the Tarmiya Education and Youth Center was held Aug. 1 north of Baghdad to the elation of hundreds of

local children who now have a place to play sports, read and paint.

The renovated, kid-magnet complex is now equipped with a full-size international basketball court, a sand volleyball court, two soccer fields, an art studio, a library, a theater for plays and a

place to practice martial arts for those who inspire to be like Chuck Norris.

"This is one of the most successful projects we've had in Tarmiya," said Capt. John Bennett, team leader of Civil Affairs Team 4, Company C, 414th CA Battalion attached to the 1st (go to page 14, Youth) —

Raider Brigade making great strides, picking up slack in Taji

By Col. James Pasquarette
Commander, 1st BCT

Soldiers of the Raider Brigade: time for another update...

It's Aug. 20 as I'm writing this. We've been deployed away from home about eight and a half months at this point – and have been operating in battlespace here in Iraq for over seven months. We're on the tail end of summer (thankfully)... I even saw a cloud or two in the sky yesterday.

The brigade combat team continues to make great strides – even if they are hard to measure. A quick update from my perspective on how our units are doing...



First, 1-22 Infantry has been once again detached and is now a part of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. At least this time it did not require a move to another FOB and area of operation. LTC Osborne, CSM Beal and the Regulars are doing fantastically well in a tough, complex environment on the west side of Baghdad.

We continue to make significant progress on growing Iraqi police capability in the Raider Brigade AO. About 150 graduates from the IP Training Academy in Jordan arrived last week – and we are in the process of integrating them into the various IP stations. Additionally, we have received (finally) 95 new IP vehicles here on Taji. They will soon be painted with the station numbers and delivered to the IPs for use. This will dramatically improve the operational capability of the IPs. I want to thank all those involved in working the Iraqi police issues. We are making steady, measured progress in an area that will

have a long-lasting impact.

The 1st Brigade of the 9th Division has moved from AO NORTH into the city of Baghdad in support of OPERATION TOGETHER FORWARD. In response to this, the Iron Knights of 1-66 Armor have picked up the slack. I want to personally thank the Iron Knights for their hard work during the transition period... no unit could have done better at what you've been tasked with right now.

The Lancers of 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry continue to work in the brigade's area most affected by the sectarian strife. Their work with the local IPs, the local councils, the tribal leaders has contributed to the reduced amount of senseless killings recently. Additionally, the Lancers have conducted several offensive operations – to include several air assaults – that has resulted in the capture of several high value individuals. A special thanks to the (go to next page, Stay focused) —

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Stay focused at tail end of hot summer, remaining months of OIF rotation

—————(continued from page 2)

Estonian Platoon for their successful operations in / around Saba al Bohr.

The Straight Arrows of 4-42 Field Artillery continue to secure Camp Taji. Their work on the Camp and on MSR Tampa and Taji Market area has enabled the Soldiers of Camp Taji to live and relax in relative peace. The Straight Arrows have also been contributing to the security of Abu Ghraib Prison west of Baghdad. Alpha Battery was attached to 1-22 Inf. for this important mission – but is now back home after mission completion. The battalion has had to deal with some weird stuff – part of the west wall that borders MSR TAMPA blew down last week. The Straight Arrows' quick reaction secured the site until the wall could be reestablished. All in all, 4-42 FA continues to be a proud, professional organization that puts its best foot forward every day.

The 1st Special Troops Battalion continues providing outstanding support to the brigade across a wide array of functional areas. Most importantly, LTC Cross, CSM Seaman and their team have ensured the BCT's attachments come on board to our standards. They continue to integrate new EOD teams, CA teams and other attachments without incident. Additionally, the 1st STB's work on project management across the brigade AO has been fantastic. We have about 150 projects currently approved and underway that employs a few thousand Iraqis. This includes improvements in road, electricity, water and other areas.

The 4th Support Battalion continues to provide superb support for the brigade combat team while also guarding the Division Holding Area Annex (where we put our detainees). LTC Snow, CSM Martinez and the entire team have really hit stride.

The brigade has 17 new company commanders since April. There will be one more change of command in HHT, 7-10 Cav. later this month – then the new team will be set. This has been great for our formation so far. Getting new blood into the system is refreshing – and our institution provides great officers that can do the job with no degradation in performance of the unit. I want to thank all the outgoing commanders for their part in making this operation successful to date.

Currently, every Soldier in the brigade is being queried on their future preferences after we return to Fort Hood. The Army is trying to do what it can to address your desires given the brigade may return to Iraq in the fall of 2007. I believe we'll know the answer in October when orders start arriving. I'd caution you to stay flexible. Things change all the time – and what is black today is white tomorrow. The Army is doing all it can to address Soldiers desires – but the turbulence in the force impacts on this greatly.

Finally, I want you to stay focused here in Iraq. We have been very disciplined to date. We have not lost any Soldiers to accidents (i.e., rollovers, etc). Additionally, we have not had any detainee abuse or

violation of the law of armed conflict. We have really taken it to the insurgents lately. This is due to one thing: leadership. Our leaders have their heads in the game. Good leaders make good decisions – even under the most trying circumstances. My concern is that we will start to lose focus as we get toward the end of the rotation. Every day is different over here – don't think that today will be like yesterday.

OK – keep up the great job in an incredibly challenging time and environment. Most of the world sits in their recliner chair in their safe, air conditioned environment and comment about what's going on in Iraq based on what they hear from a newsperson's perspective. President Theodore Roosevelt said, "It behooves every man to remember that the work of the critic is of altogether secondary importance, and that in the end, progress is accomplished by the man who does things." You are here – making things happen – seeing things first hand – and making a difference. Millions of people are depending on you to get this right. Take pride in this – and stay focused.



Raider Brigade Chaplain's Corner:

Who you are speaks louder than words

By Chaplain (Capt.) Mark Rendon
4th Spt. Bn. Chaplain

I am reminded of a man by the name of Lee Ryan Miller who was a college professor at two different colleges. One day, he was traveling from the university to the community college 17 miles away when his car broke down. Since he was only a quarter mile from the school, he decided to park the car and walk the rest of the way. He called AAA and arranged for a tow truck to meet him at his car after he was finished with class. This stirred up a conversation between Dr. Miller and a secretary. The conversation went as such.

"This is my lucky day," replied Lee smiling.

"Your car breaks down and today is your lucky day." The secretary asked puzzled, "What do you mean?"

"I live 17 miles from here," Lee said. "My car could have broken down anywhere along the freeway. It didn't. Instead, it broke down in the perfect place off the freeway within walking distance of here. I'm still able to teach my class, and I've been able to arrange for the tow truck to meet me after class. If my car was meant to break down today it couldn't have been arranged in a more convenient fashion."

Deepak Chopra quoted an Indian wise man saying, "Who you are speaks louder than anything you say." It must be so.

What would you do if your M1114 broke down or maybe a PLS or family van? Obviously, you would go about getting it secured and then fixed. The question is not what happened or what you did to fix it. The question is how did you deal with the loss?

I have expressed to a few Soldiers in the past week or so that each man and woman in the world builds their own legacy. Either they will leave behind a legacy that is positive and rewarding to themselves or others or they will leave a legacy that is negative all the way around.

Are you willing to work on your legacy? When something hits the fan, what will your reaction be? Is it the right one? Our imperfections only challenge us daily to do one thing, make us a better person.

Camp Taji's Warrior Chapel church services

Saturdays

Seventh-Day Adventist - 10:30 a.m.

Sundays

Liturgical Protestant - 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass - 10:00 a.m.

Traditional Protestant - 11:30 a.m.

Latter-Day Saints - 2 p.m.

Contemporary Protestant - 6 p.m.

Luke 6:45 – "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil; for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

Setting a course... Sgt. 1st Class Steven Byrd, personal security detachment platoon sergeant, Co. A, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., enters data onto his FBCB2 system prior to departing for a mission outside the wire, Aug. 4.

Cav troopers receive recognition for heroic acts during OIF tour

By Maj. David Olson
1st BCT PAO

As the sun began to set on 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, the squadron commander presented 45 troopers with medals and badges during a mid-tour awards ceremony at Camp Taji, July 22.

Lt. Col. Dave Thompson, commander, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., presented eight Bronze Star Medals with V-device for valor during combat operations, four Army Commendation Medals with V-device for valor during combat, 13 ARCOMs for achievement, 21



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

Lt. Col. Dave Thompson, commander, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., presents Pfc. Dean Bright, cavalry scout, Trp. B, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., with a Bronze Star Medal with V-device, July 22.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

Lt. Col. Dave Thompson, commander, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., speaks to the squadron about the exploits of the eight Bronze Star Medal with V-device and four Army Commendation Medal with V-device recipients, July 22.

Combat Action Badges for satisfactory performance under hostile fire with the enemy and two Combat Medical Badges for satisfactory performance of medical duties under hostile fire.

To earn these distinguished awards for valor, the troopers did some remarkable things. Pfc. Dean Bright, a cavalry scout with Troop B, award's citation reads, "PV2 Bright's willingness to follow other Soldiers into the scene of a destroyed Bradley containing burning ammunition and explosives to assist in the rescue effort was instrumental in saving the life of PV2 Gibbons. His courage in the face of grave danger exemplifies the Army values and warrior ethos."

Another example of a brave act is Staff Sgt. Carmen Centennial, a cavalry section leader from Troop C.

His award recommendation tells how he maneuvered his "out-gunned section in a four hour operation against a dug-in armed hostile Mahdi militia force with no friendly casualties or loss of coalition equipment." As a result of this action, two terrorists were wounded, six others were disarmed and captured, and many weapons with ammunition were seized.

In a speech to the troopers of the Lancer Squadron, Thompson praised his Soldiers and what they accomplished. "We earned these medals rescuing fellow Soldiers from burning vehicles and killing terrorists. Usually battalion commanders don't get to give these (Bronze Star Medals with V-device) out, but I presented a bunch of them. I'll never forget this day."

Tarmiya MedOp helps hundreds

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

Under the watchful eyes of the Iraqi army and the local Iraqi police force, 743 Iraqi citizens lined-up around the Tarmiya Medical Clinic for a combined medical operation, July 10.

With the support of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, six Iraqi medics from the 1st Mechanized Bde., 9th Iraqi Army Div., helped screen patients while a U.S. doctor and a physician's assistant saw the locals who rely solely on the clinic for treatment.

"Our mission was to conduct a medical operation at the Tarmiya Medical Clinic and provide local citizens with free pharmaceuticals for the day," said Capt. John Bennett, Company C, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, which is a Reserve unit attached to the 1st BCT. "We supplied about \$5,000 worth of pharmaceuticals purchased from a local pharmacy to put money back into the economy."

Bennett said his unit has worked in the area for about two and a half



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Maj. Michael Ellis, battalion surgeon, HHC, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., examines a local girl during a medical operation at the Tarmiya Medical Clinic, July 10.

months so far and this operation was planned mostly by the local citizens.

"This was an opportunity for the local council members to come in and be seen, so the people would know they were responsible," said Bennett. "Doctor Hussein, the head doctor, the Iraqi army and the police were a big part of this."

The Iraqis were pleased at the outcome of the day.

"The doctors told me that I have diabetes, and they gave me a prescription for insulin," said Sayed Achmed, a local man who came in for treatment. "They were friendly and very helpful. We can't go to Baghdad even though we get sicker and sicker. I wish that God would bless the Americans and the Iraqis army to make it safer here for us."

As the Iraqis become more able to sustain themselves, Multi-National Division-Soldiers are gradually taking a backseat.

"I've done half a dozen or so or

these operations, but I'm just helping out today," said Maj. Michael Ellis, battalion surgeon, 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regiment, 1st BCT. "This is a good facility, I would say they are doing good work here with what they have available."

The staff appreciated the assistance the local groups provided for the event.

"It's a good day. The Americans bring medicine that we run out of," said Abdallah Kittan, medical assistant. "I thank them for that. Baghdad is too far to go. The people appreciate the help because the medicine is free when the Americans come."

Kittan feels that having X-ray and sonogram machines would help them provide more care to the people.

The medical operations conducted by the 1st BCT, in cooperation with the Iraqi army and local citizens, are scheduled to continue throughout the 4th Inf. Div.'s area of operations.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Maj. Michael Ellis, battalion surgeon, HHC, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., examines a local man, July 10.

Raiders attend prayer breakfast

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, *Raider Review*

A prayer breakfast, hosted by the 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment out of Fort Bragg, N.C., who are attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, was held July 27 at the Command Sgt. Maj. Cooke Dining Facility on Camp Taji.

The breakfast rounded-up leaders of the 1st BCT and Soldiers from units around Camp Taji to enjoy breakfast together, listen to words of inspiration and to pray.

Chaplain (Capt.) John Morales, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st BCT, was the guest speaker of the event where he compared finishing the deployment and living one's life to running and winning an endurance race.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Soldiers from the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., pray at the monthly prayer breakfast hosted by the 1st Bn., 377th FA Regt., out of Fort Bragg, N.C., at the Command Sgt. Maj. Cooke Dining Facility on Camp Taji, July 27.

"Today's theme is about enduring a marathon. We are on the last bit of this marathon deployment," Morales said. "It is not just about getting to the finish line, but running through the finish line. One day this race will end,

but it's not how you start the race that matters; it's how you finish it.

"Most people who lose races are always looking to the left and to the right thinking about their competition.

(go to page 12, turn)

Women's Center opens in Assyria Village

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, *Raider Review*

The Women's Center in Assyria Village held its grand opening Aug. 2 just outside the gates of Camp Taji, so women in the small village can have a place to meet, sew, cook and use the center's computers.

The \$230,000 building was built from the ground

up and is equipped with 12 sewing machines, 12 computers, a kitchen, some office space, a back-up generator and two ovens.

"This is the first building I've ever heard of that is just for women," said Capt. Holly Hanson, team leader for Civil Affairs Team 3, Company C, 414th CA Battalion, attached to the 1st Special Troops Bn., 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. "There aren't a lot of chances for

women in this part of the world. It (the Women's Center) will give them a sense of accomplishment and an education that they won't get anywhere else."

Iraqi women have faced decades of oppression and there is a large education gap between men and women although women make-up 60 percent of the population. In March 2006, during the signing of Iraq's interim constitution, more than 200 women marched

in Baghdad for greater rights. For many, this was the first time they had ever seen women demonstrate freely in Iraq.

With changes in how Iraqis look at women occurring slowly, centers like the Women's Center in Assyria Village are a welcome relief.

"This project has been very well received in this community," said Fred Nightengale, resident (go to page 12, Women's)

Coalition reaches out to village

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

The Macedonian Special Forces Platoon Soldiers of Task Force Wolf and Soldiers from Psychological Operations Detachment 1120, 303rd Psyop Company conducted an assessment patrol with Iraqi army soldiers from 5th Special Troops Company, 1st Mechanized Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, in the remote town of Subak Sur, Aug. 10.

Several different missions came to fruition as the patrol moved through the city near the Rashidiya region. The Macedonians sought to instruct the Iraqi army soldiers in how to conduct patrols in urban environments while the Psyop team conducted a village assessment.

“Basically, during an assessment, we go into a village and talk to people and local vendors to find out what the people are feeling,” said Sgt. Josh Cuddy, Psyop team chief, Det. 1120, 303rd Psyop Co. “We come out to



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Sgt. Josh Cuddy (center), Psyop team chief, Det. 1120, 303rd Psyop Co. talks to local Iraqis in the town of Subak Sur during an assessment mission, Aug 10. The Macedonian Special Forces Platoon provided security while conducting their own assessment of the area and supporting the Iraqi army.

hear what issues they have, what’s going on with them, their feelings about the Coalition, the Iraqi government and military.”

The dominantly Shia town of Subak Sur sits within the area of responsibility of all three units. The mission functioned as a way to not only show support from the Coalition, but also an opportunity for the Iraqi army to touch base with the remote town.

“Some of the people here said they haven’t seen Coalition forces for a long time, but they were still friendly to us,” said Cuddy. “We want the people to support the Iraqi Security Forces and help 1st Brigade see where the people stand.”

Task Force Wolf is new to Iraq. In their second month in theater the Macedonian soldiers, attached to 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Bde. Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div., continue to add to their growing number of missions each day.

“Our mission is to help train the Iraqi army,” said Capt. Zoran Ivanov, commander, Task Force Wolf. “We provided security and did our own assessment of the town while the Iraqi army also provided security.” Zoran already sees progress in the Iraqis that he works with daily.

“The Iraqi army soldiers are motivated and they are getting better and better everyday.”

As the Iraqi army takes the lead, they have to deal with unique problems while the Coalition supports their operations.

“Things have been going good. We have a few militia problems, but that’s it,” said 1st Lt. Haider Rustem, intelligence officer, 5th STC, 1st Mech. Bde., 9th IA Div. “The Macedonians are good at what they do.”

The units will continue to work separately and cooperatively in the region to provide security and support for the Iraqi people.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Capt. Zoran Ivanov, commander, Task Force Wolf, Macedonian Special Forces Platoon, discusses the issues of the citizens of Subak Sur during an assessment mission conducted, Aug 10. Locals brought up issues with electricity and clean water.

1-22 Sappers aid wounded man

1st Lt. Nathan Rawlings
1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Company E, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, came to the aid of a local man who was injured in a terrorist attack in western Baghdad, recently.

Soldiers from the Sapper platoon were conducting roadside bomb clearance operations north of Highway 1 when they came upon an overturned pickup truck with an injured man trapped inside.

The Soldiers from the platoon immediately came to the aid of the injured man to free him from the wreckage. As soon as he was freed, Sgt. Guillermo Esparza, the platoon's medic attended to the man's wounds.

"The Soldiers of 1st Platoon carried out their duties as Soldiers,"



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Nathan Rawlings

Soldiers from Co. E, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., stand in front of the vehicles that comprise of Regular Iron Claw in western Baghdad. Soldiers of the company recently rescued a local man from an overturned vehicle that was attacked by terrorists.

said Pfc. Brian Taylor, plans and operations, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt. "The Iraqi gentleman then stated that his pickup truck came

under small arms fire from the side of the highway and that one of the rounds pierced the engine block causing his truck to flip over."

After ensuring the man was stable, the Sapper Soldiers turned the man over to the 3rd Bn., 3rd Bde., 6th Iraqi Army Div., for further assistance.

"This deed exemplifies the motto of Task Force 1-22, 'Deeds, not Words,' in that the Sapper Platoon helped this stranded individual," said Spc. Timothy Yingling, plans and operations, HHC, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt. "As the Iraqi citizens continue to face the threat of insurgent and sectarian violence, the Iraqi people look for hope from their protectors who are the Iraqi army followed by Task Force 1-22. In this combined partnership, it is the will of the Iraqi people that is the force behind the search for terrorists."



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Sappers in Tarmiya... Soldiers from Co. E, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., got together prior to patrolling Tarmiya for a unit photo, July 31.

Raider change of command bonanza



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kristin Kemplin

Lt. Col. Craig Osborne, commander, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., passes the guidon for HHC, 1st Bn., 22 Inf. Regt., to HHC Commander Capt. Troy Parrish, July 15.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Lt. Col. Dave Thompson, commander, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., gives Capt. Reginald Evans, incoming commander, Co. B, 1st STB a congratulatory hug after assuming command, July 30.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Capt. Casey Connors, incoming commander, Co. E, 1st Bn., 66th AR, talks to his troops after assuming command at a Change of Command Ceremony in Tarmiya, July 31.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Capt. Mark Beerbower, incoming commander, Co. D, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., thanks guests at the Company Change of Command Ceremony, July 19.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Capt. John Shermer, incoming commander, sings the 4th Infantry Division march with his Soldiers at the Co. A, 1st STB Change of Command Ceremony, July 31.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Capt. Ed Kennedy, commander, Co. C, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., stands in front of his Soldiers at a Change of Command Ceremony at the Abu Ghraib Internment Facility, July 16.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Lt. Col. Rocky Kmiecik, commander 1st Bn., 66th AR, hands the guidon and command to Capt. William Rodebaugh at the HHC Change of Command, July 21.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Capt. Tucker Shosh (right) salutes 1st Sgt. John Cook at the Btry. B, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt. Change of Command Ceremony, July 24.

IA, 1-22 vigilant in the face of VBIED threat

By 2nd Lt. Brian Kalaher
1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.

With the threat of sectarian violence plaguing many of the neighborhoods in and around Baghdad, Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, have stepped up their efforts to bring peace and stability to Iraq.

Taking the lead in order to protect Iraqi citizens against the emerging threat of car bombs, Soldiers of the Iraqi brigade have established extra



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Brian Kalaher

An Iraqi soldier inspects the trunk of a vehicle while the driver looks on in Muthana, Iraq, July 12. Soldiers of the 3rd Bde., 6th IA Div. have stepped up their efforts to mitigate the threat of car bombs by posting extra checkpoints throughout their area of operation.

checkpoints around the city of Muthana, Iraq, July 12.

“They took the lead on this operation; they are out front stopping vehicles,

deciding which ones to search and interacting with the people,” said 1st Lt. Corbett Baxter, platoon leader, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Bde. Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div., who has been working closely with the Iraqi army since the 4th Inf. Div. hit the ground at the beginning of this year. “It further exemplifies that these soldiers are fulfilling their duty to their country and providing for the protection of all Iraq.”

Car bombs are a very effective way for terrorists to disrupt the standing up of the Iraqi army, who have taken the lead across the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., area of operations.

Terrorists simply wire their car to be a moving bomb and then try to drive

it where they can cause the most damage or death to innocent civilians.

To mitigate his threat, Iraqi soldiers can be seen checking identification cards and the vehicles of drivers on the main highways in and around Muthana. Even after long days in the stifling July heat of Iraq, Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers can be seen conversing about their mission and how they can constantly improve during their scheduled break times.

“These types of vigilant effort by Soldiers of Task Force 1-22 and the Iraqi army help identify a vehicle in its first phase of becoming a VBIED [vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices or commonly known as car bombs],” said Spc. Timothy Yingling, battalion plans and operations, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt. “However, the efforts of the Iraqi army and U.S. Forces will deter terrorists from conducting these attacks through their maintained vigilance.”

“If anything, this speaks highly of the Iraqi soldiers who risk their lives to serve for such a noble cause,” said 1st Lt. Dahbry Streets, battle captain, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt. “This selflessness will ultimately lead to a country that everyone will be proud of.”



U.S. Army photo courtesy of CSM Robert Wells

Ready to roll... Pfc. Kyle Rodeffer, an infantryman with Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., provides security during a rest halt west of Mushada.

Turn adversity and hardship into asset

—(continued from page 7)

They get distracted,” Morales added. “We have to develop a focus that allows us to press on. Turn adversity and hardship into an asset. It’s not what happens to you in your life, but how you react to circumstances that make the difference. God didn’t send you to this life or to your unit to start the race, but to finish it. Run the race to win, because the prize with life and this deployment are at the finish line.”

Currently, the brigade is



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

From left, Lt. Col. Jeffery Toomer, mayor of Camp Taji and Capt. Michael Sarro his communication officer, perform “His Strength is Perfect” at the camp’s prayer breakfast, July 27.

eight months into a year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is the 4th Inf. Div.’s second year-long

deployment in four years and many in the brigade are serving their second tour in the Iraqi theater. The monthly breakfast helps

give inspirational strength to the leaders and Soldiers of the camp north of Baghdad who can pass their inspiration on to Soldiers who were not able to make the event.

“I couldn’t be luckier with all the brigade leadership that is here,” said Col. James Pasquarette, commander, 1st BCT.

“With all the things going on in the world such as Lebanon and Israel, Iraq has kind of moved to the back page of the news. So, just stay focused on what you are doing.”

Women's Center is first in brigade area

—(continued from page 7)

engineer for Camp Taji with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who has been a part of the project since its inception. “Here in Iraq, women don’t get to do a lot. The center is a real boost to this community, because it gives them an opportunity to help out.”

The center plans on starting education classes for women to improve illiteracy problems that plague the country. In addition, women can take classes on the Internet, if they are able to read, and they can make a living by making garments in the center’s new sewing shop.

“I’m planning on making clothes here to sell to people, so I can make some money for my family,” said a local woman who didn’t want to be identified and was already making



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Capt. Holly Hanson, team chief for Civil Affairs Team 3, Co. C, 414th CA Bn. attached to the 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., poses for a picture with a local woman and her child at the grand opening of the Women’s Center in Assyria Village just outside the gates of Camp Taji, Aug. 2. The center is the first in the area where just women can come to meet.

clothes at the grand opening. “I’ve been waiting for this place to open for

a long time, and I’m very happy now that I can come sew here.”

Scenes around the Raider Brigade



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Wilding, interpreter NCOIC, HHD, 1st BCT, reacts to a roadside bomb that was placed outside of Tarmiya, July 31.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

Staff Sgt. Nicklaus Watson, (left) heavy equipment operator, Co. F, 1st Bn., 66th AR, and Spc. Derek Walton, infantryman, HHC, 1st Bn., 66th AR, conduct dismounted operations to provide far-side security for a roadside bomb interrogation.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Spc. Brandon Ellis, a scout with Trp. A, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., guards the road while his patrol talks to the locals in a local village near Taji. The patrol joined the Iraqi army and the Iraqi police in canvassing the area and discussing problems the people are having.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Spc. Wesley Whitehead, an infantryman, and Pfc. Kameron Coleman, the driver, prepare for a mission. Both men are assigned to Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR. Whitehead pulled Coleman from a Bradley after it flipped during a roadside bomb attack killing one U.S. Soldier, Feb. 2. Coleman was injured and trapped in the driver's compartment and the threat of fire was imminent as fuel was drenching the occupants of the vehicle. Whitehead received a Bronze Star with V-device for saving Coleman and dragging him to safety during the ensuing small arms fire attack.



U.S. Army photo by PM 1st Class Michael Larson

A UH-60 Black hawk lifts off from Camp Taji during an air assault mission to search for terrorists and weapon caches in the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., area of responsibility.



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 7-10th Cav. Regt.

Sgt. Nicholas Kucharski, a scout and Bradley commander, and Spc. Brian Brown, a scout and Bradley driver, both assigned to Trp. A, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., perform field repairs to their M3A3 Bradley Cavalry Fighting Vehicle on Patrol Base South.

Youth Center successful Tarmiya project

—(continued from page 1)

Special Troops Bn., 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. "This [the youth center] will help keep the children off the streets. It's long overdue."

The center is a \$200,000 refurbishing project which took about 120 days to complete. The walls, bathrooms and floors throughout the complex have been completely upgraded with a fresh coat of paint, sparkling tile and new fixtures. Rooms throughout the center have been set-up specifically for functions children are interested in from painting a picture to portraying their favorite character in the theater. In addition, the exterior of the center is surrounded by concrete walls making it safer for the children who visit.

The project is just part of a massive rebuilding effort taking place in the city which used to be a hot bed for terrorists. In March 2006, the 9th Iraqi Army Div. and the 1st BCT cordoned Tarmiya, separating the citizens from the terrorists and making it difficult for terrorists to disrupt improvements that are ongoing.

In addition to the youth center, improvements can be seen everywhere such as the medical center, the town hall, a girl's school, many of the roads running throughout the city and a \$2.4 million pipeline project which will bring fresh water to Tarmiya later this year. The youth center now gives children of the community a place to go, so they can better themselves and get off the streets.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Iraqi youth from Tarmiya play basketball at the new \$200,000 refurbished Education and Youth Center which held its grand opening on Aug. 1 north of Baghdad.

"We noticed when we first got here there were a lot of kids on the street," said Spc. Carlos Matos, a member of the 414th CA Team who oversaw the quality of the work being performed on the project from the beginning. "It's like a YMCA in the states and this is a good start for the kids in this community and for their future."

"The kids have really been excited about this place opening up," Matos added. "Kids really love soccer in this part of the world and this gives them a place to play."

Included in the center is an organized league where kids can compete against each other in basketball, soccer and other sports. Many of the kids already had their uniforms on and were playing together within minutes of the

center's opening.

"I've been looking forward to this place opening," said Attiya, 15, who was playing basketball at the center with his team, the Rockets, during the grand opening. "I like playing with my friends against other teams, and I think we have the best team in Tarmiya."

Not only are the children of Tarmiya happy with the center's opening, leaders in the community are also optimistic about what the center means to the community.

"This project was made possible by the people of Tarmiya and the Americans," said Shiek Saeed Jassim, the leader of the Tarmiya city council. "This center will not only help the community, but it will be very beneficial to the children as well."



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

The grand opening ceremony of the Tarmiya Education and Youth Center was held Aug. 1 in the city north of Baghdad. The \$200,000 refurbished center comes equipped with two soccer fields, an international size basketball court, a volleyball court, a theater, an art studio and a library.